Marcel Khalife

Marcel Khalife (Arabic: مرسيل خليفة; born 10 June 1950) is a Lebanese musical composer, singer, and oud player. Khalife is considered a folk hero in the Arab world, and he has been described as the "Bob Dylan of the Middle East."[1]

Biography

Khalife performing at May Day celebration in Beirut

In 1983, Paredon Records (later acquired by Smithsonian Folkways) released *Promises of the Storm*, a collection of protest songs and political ballads.[2]

Tunisia

In July 2009, Khalife returned to Tunisia to perform on the stage of the Roman amphitheater to a full house, as part of the 45th International Festival of Carthage. Speaking to the audience, Khalife opened the concert by stating:[3]

> People of Tunisia, good evening. This night, like all nights in Tunisia, has a special taste. In spite of all the collapses and defeats around the world,

Marcel Khalife	
Background information	
Birth name	Marcel Khalife
Born	10 June 1950 Amsheet, Mount Lebanon Governorate, Lebanon
Occupation(s)	Singer-songwriter, oud player
Years active	1972–present
Website	marcelkhalife.com (http://marcelkhalife.com)

> Tunisians are still the kind of people w
> not broadcast my songs and concerts o
> listening to me.

Khalife later dedicated a song to the "revolutionary leader Che Guevara".[3]

Ana Yousef, ya Abi case

Three times (1996, 1999, and 2003), he faced criminal prosecution for his song *I am Joseph, O Father*, written by the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish.[4]

Education

Khalifé studied the oud at the Beirut National Conservatory of Music and graduated in 1971.[5][6][7]

Professional life

After graduating from the Beirut National Conservatory of Music in 1971, Khalife taught the art of oud playing there until 1975.[6] Between 1972 and 1975, he taught music at public universities and several private music institutions in Lebanon while at the same touring the MENA region, Europe, and the United States to perform.[8]

He formed in 1972 a musical group in Amchit to revive his village's musical heritage, and it performed for the first time in Lebanon. He formed in 1976 Al Mayadine Ensemble, which toured Arabic-speaking countries, Europe, the United States, Canada, South America, Australia, and Japan.[7][9] Khalife was awarded the American Folkloric Festival Award in 1975, the National Palestine Medal for Arts and Culture in 2001, the UNESCO Artist for Peace award in 2005, the Lebanese government Cedar Medal in 2005, and the Charles Cros Award for World Music in 2008. Khalife performed globally during his career, including throughout much of the Arab world.[10] A long-time supporter of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, he released the song, Nashid al-Intifada ("Anthem of the Intifada") in 1989, amid the non-violent First Palestinian Intifada.[11]

Personal life

His eldest son, Juilliard School graduate Rami Khalife, is a pianist and composer.[12][13] In October 2011, the Qatar Philharmonic Orchestra, under the conductorship of James Gaffigan, premiered Khalife's 'Chaos', for orchestra and piano, with Khalife at the helm as a soloist. In

February 2013, Rami Khalife's Arab Spring-inspired 'Requiem' was premiered, within the same program as Marcel Khalife's suite "Oriental".[14]

Works

Books

In 1982, he wrote a six-part *Anthology of Studying the Oud*.

Performances

- 2005.11.14: Lincoln Theatre (Washington, D.C.) USA[15]
- 2004.01.12: Kennedy Center Washington DC USA[16]
- 2008.10.10: De Roma Borgerhout, Antwerp, Belgium[17]
- 2011.03.13: Al-Bustan Concert Series, Philadelphia, PA, USA[18]
- 2014.11.15: Al-Bustan Concert Series, Philadelphia, PA, USA[19]
- 2016.12.18: Day for Night Festival, Houston, TX, USA[20]
- 2018.05.25 Institut des cultures arabes et méditerranéennes, Geneva, Switzerland[21]

Films

Marcel Khalife has composed soundtracks for films, documentaries, and fiction, produced by Maroun Baghdadi, Oussama Mohammed, Sophi Sayhf Eddin, and Samir Zikra. His music is also featured in the documentary Occupied Minds produced by Jamal Dajani and David Michaelis. His music featured in the documentary film Sons of Eilaboun by Hisham Zreiq.[22]

Talks

Marcel Khalife gave a talk on 12 March 2013, at the American University of Sharjah about his latest CD, *The Fall of the Moon,* and his longing towards the late Mahmoud Darwish. He also spoke about the prospects of publishing his autobiography in two volumes.[23]

Discography

Below the discography of Marcel Khalife.[24]

Studio albums

- *Promises of the Storm* (1976)
- *At the Border* (1980)
- *Ahmad Al Arabi* (1984)
- *Dreamy Sunrise* (1985)
- *Ode to a Homeland* (1990)
- *Arabic Coffeepot* (1995)
- *Voyageur* (1998)
- *Jadal* (2002)
- *The Bridge* (2002)
- *Summer Night's Dream* (2003)
- *Promises of the Storm* (2003)
- *Caress* (2004)
- *Peace Be with You* (2006)
- *Taqasim* (2006)
- *Sharq* (2007)
- *Andulusia of Love* (2016)[25]

Singles

- *Mounadiloun (Strugglers)*
- *Oummi (Mother)*

Live albums

- *Dance* (1995)
- *Marcel Khalife: Magic Carpet* (1998)
- *Concerto Al Andalus* (2002)

Honours

- France: Knight of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (2018)
- Morocco: Commander of the Order of Intellectual Merit (2008)
- Tunisia: Grand Officier of the National Order of Merit of Tunisia (2018)

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External links

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